



L A T E S T

The Wildlife Comeback in Europe

When my father was a young boy he never saw roe deer hopping through the fields; he never enjoyed cormorants fishing in the river Rhine; peregrines were extinct and greylag geese were a rare migrant in winter. Nowadays he walks with his grandchildren along the banks of the Rhine showing them beaver lodges and geese nests in the new riverine forests. Peregrines hunt on ducks near the river, in the fields there is roe deer accompanied by great white egrets and rumors are getting stronger that lynx is back.



Florian Möllers/Wild Wonders of Europe

For some it may be hard to believe, but the last 30-40 years has been an era of significant wildlife comeback in Europe. According to WWF's 2010 "[Living Planet Report](#)", the period 1970 to 2007 saw an average increase of animal populations of 43% in Europe. Better "environmental protection" is claimed to be a major contributing factor, but recent changes in land use with abandonment of farmland, reduced hunting pressure, and higher productivity of many ecosystems due to more nutritional input from human activities probably also played an important role. Land seems to have benefitted more than the sea - many marine species still struggle, often associated with the escalating overharvest of diminishing fish resources. [Read the rest of this page »](#)

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Report on farmland abandonment

On 15 November 2010 the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)



Rewilding Europe

A new beginning. For wildlife. For us.



R E W I L D I N G

Rewilding Europe is bringing back the variety of life to Europe's abandoned lands. Fresh ideas and new livelihoods based on a common heritage.

Rewilding Europa aims at rewilding one million hectares of Europe by 2020. The programme will initiate 10 areas, each of at least 100,000 hectares, reflecting the majority of European ecosystems, flora and fauna. The ten areas will serve as the front-runners for a large scale shift in land use across Europe towards wilderness-based economies. Millions of people will be offered the opportunity of enjoying a Wild Europe.

visit the projects

published a report on farmland abandonment in the EU. In the report is stated that in the last decades substantial areas of the EU have been affected by abandonment. And a mid-range estimate shows abandonment up to an amount of 168,000 km² of land by 2030.

This study was carried out by IEEP for WWF Netherlands with the aim of assessing the likelihood of large-scale agricultural abandonment in the EU (and as far as data allow, other European countries) over the next 20-30 years, and its likely extent and location.

Read more in the report [Farmland abandonment in the EU – 15 nov 2010](#).



24 November, 2010 | Categories: [Wild Europe Field Programma](#) | Tags: [depopulation](#), [europe](#), [grazing](#), [IEEP](#), [land abandonment](#), [report](#), [restoration](#), [rewilding](#), [rural areas](#), [wwf](#) | Comments Off

Land abandonment as opportunity

On 18 November 2010 Rewilding Europe was launched in Brussels, moderated by Her Royal Highness Princess Laurentien van Oranje. Rewilding Europe is a collaboration between WWF Netherlands, ARK Nature and Wild Wonders of Europe, pioneering a unique concept that aims to rewild one million hectares of Europe's abandoned landscape by 2020. 10 projects, each comprising of at least 100,000 hectares, will serve as front-runners for a larger shift in land-use across Europe towards an economically viable, nature based economy.

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Launch Rewilding Europe

Rewilding Europe

A new beginning. For wildlife. For us.

Official launch of Rewilding Europe

18 November 2010. Flagey, Brussels. 10:00 – 13:00 hrs

You are kindly invited to celebrate the Launch of *Rewilding Europe* (formerly known as the Wild Europe Field Programme) on the 18th of November 2010 in Brussels, following the wilderness restoration conference of the Wild Europe Initiative on the 16th and 17th of November.

Representatives of the first five field projects of *Rewilding Europe* (Velebit, Western iberia, Danube Delta, Southern Carpathians and Eastern Carpathians), funding institutions, politicians, communities, and NGO's from all over the continent, will jointly call for action to rewild Europe.



Konrad Wothe/Wild Wonders of Europe



R E C E N T

The Wildlife Comeback in Europe

Report on farmland abandonment

Land abandonment as opportunity

Launch Rewilding Europe

Wild Wonders of Europe – The Book

Welcome to the 21st century wilderness

Depopulation of rural areas

Wilderness is more than forest alone

Poll: What is your favorite animal in the European wilderness?

- ☐ brown bear
- ☐ killer whale
- ☐ lynx
- ☐ moose
- ☐ wolf
- ☐ golden eagle
- ☐ european bison
- ☐ Other:

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L A T E S T



We are proud to present a diverse and inspiring [programme](#), facilitated by Princess Laurentien van Oranje.

Register to visit the launch on our [Launch page](#).

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29 October, 2010 | Categories: [Wild Europe Field Programma](#) | [Leave A Comment »](#)

Wild Wonders of Europe – The Book

” For over a year, 69 of the world’s best nature photographers travelled to all corners of Europe ’s 48 countries to unveil the incredibly rich and amazingly varied natural heritage of this continent.

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Milán Radisics/Wild Wonders of Europe

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